

Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation



On the Edge!



Photo by Lynda Barksdale

**Patrick Redbird, Kiowa, Leader of Black Legging Society
Performing at Partners' Annual Banquet**



Patrick Redbird
By
Dr. Ann Coberley

On November 12, Partners held their Annual Meeting at the Mack Dick Pavilion in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. The speaker was Patrick Redbird, a Kiowa Story Teller, Singer and Dancer from Anadarko, Oklahoma.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Redbird on October 10, 2015, at the Black Leggings Warrior Society Ceremony in Anadarko, held in honor of Kiowa military heroes who have served in the United States Armed Services. It was an opportunity to get acquainted with Patrick and to learn more about contemporary Kiowa culture. The meeting was facilitated by David Townsend, manager of Partners' Gallery and Gift Shop at the Visitor's Center in Palo Duro Canyon. What follows is an abbreviated biography of Patrick Redbird.

Patrick was born on the Army base at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, but grew up in Anadarko, a small city with a Native American population of close to fifty percent. He was the first-born child of a traditional and respected Kiowa family. As such, he was expected to participate early in traditional and respected ceremonies. He was called Little Eagle, and by the age of ten had been outfitted in moccasins, leggings, sash, beads, gourd, fan, and paint for special cultural occasions. Both his grandparents and parents spoke Kiowa part of the time, and Patrick grew up

understanding Kiowa words and phrases. His grandfather was a minister who started out in the Native American Church but eventually converted to the Methodist Church. Patrick remembers him as a wonderful preacher and singer of both Methodist and Kiowa hymns.

As he grew up, Patrick participated in traditional Kiowa male age sets, moving from Little Crows to Little Hawks and, eventually, to Eagles. These transitions were reflected in particular rituals and dances and in the types of feathers used in their ceremonial bustles. He said that females have similar age sets but that males are not privileged to have information about those rituals.

He attended college at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, but earned his BA in communications from Northeastern State University in Miami, Oklahoma. He focused also on health and physical education in his studies. After graduation, he worked extensively in the development of Oklahoma Indian Tourism. Over the years, Patrick has developed a reputation as a story teller, singer and dancer—a skilled conveyor of his cultural heritage. He spends much of his time now in this endeavor. He and his wife still live in Anadarko. They have one daughter in her late twenties. *Ac*

(Editor's Note: Dr. Coberley obtained her PhD from City University of New York She is a member of the Partners Board of Advisors and teaches part time at Amarillo College.)



Photo by Lynda Barksdale

“To manage and conserve of Texas and to provide recreation opportunities for and future generations.”



the natural and cultural resources hunting, fishing, and outdoor the use and enjoyment of present

Shannon Blalock, Park Superintendent

The mission of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department guides the efforts and focuses the energy of Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Over the last couple of years, construction of the Juniper Camping Loop has been underway. On November 10, 2016, Palo Duro Canyon State Park celebrated the project's completion. The area now offers 20 water and electric campsites, a comfort station with showers and restrooms, the Tasajillo Group Pavilion, and the Wolfberry Group Camp Area. One more opportunity now exists within Palo Duro Canyon State Park for people to experience the great outdoors.

Tent campers and RVers can enjoy beautiful campsites in the Juniper Camping Loop, gatherings can take place in the Tasajillo Pavilion, and families can host family reunions using the 9 sites in the Wolfberry Group Camp Area. I mention just a few of the myriad uses the new area will allow for people today and tomorrow. The mission of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the State Parks Division has been executed upon, and I cannot help but think of all the people that led us across the finish line. From TPWD's infrastructure Division, to contractors to TXDOT, to the Park's Operation crew, the project was certainly a team effort, and the Park is thankful for all of the time and energy put into making it successful.

I hope each of you find time to spend with family and friends over the holiday season. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Take care, Shannon. *Sb*



Juniper Camping Loop



Jeff Davis, Park Interpreter

There's No Place Like the Outdoors for the Holidays

Around this time each year we are treated to the crooning sounds of Perry Como reminding us that "...there's no place like home for the holidays." While it's hard to argue with homemade pumpkin pie, and it's true that you can't beat home sweet home, there are plenty of other ways to spend some of your time off for the holidays that is also fulfilling.

Millions of people will soon head for their local homeless shelters, food pantries, clothing donation centers, VA hospitals, nursing homes, and any number of other locations where they will give generously of their love, sweat, treasure, and time. If giving your brother-in-law a new sweater or your second cousin a nice set of mittens warms your heart, imagine how good it might feel to share those kinds of things with folks who truly need them.

Millions of others will choose during this festive time to spend time outdoors by bringing their families to our natural treasures. All over these United States, beautiful outdoor places such as Palo Duro Canyon State Park will host folks who have had enough of shopping and sitting outdoors. Rather than spend another minute watching television or staring aimlessly at their phones,

lots of people will choose instead to go on a picnic, hike or bike ride, and be reminded of what is really important during this special time—our family, our friends, our health, and our ability to share in the lives of those around us.

On December 17th this year, Palo Duro Canyon State Park will give visitors a chance to enjoy one of the most amazing places Texas has to offer while also helping those less fortunate. The annual Christmas Balloon Glow Event, which takes place at the Mack Dick Group Pavilion, is an opportunity to wonder at the vision of hot air balloons against the Canyon's backdrop, visit with Santa, hear live music, and make a festive Christmas ornament. Best of all, entrance into the Park is free with the donation of a non-perishable food item after 4:00 p.m. All of the donated food will go to help the High Plains Food Bank. It is heartbreaking that over one in four Texas households struggle to afford enough food for their families, but that also creates a huge opportunity for the people of Texas and our region to lend a helping hand and make a difference in the lives of our neighbors this holiday season.

So as we charge headlong into this often busy, often hectic, and often stressful time of the year, take some time out for you and your loved ones to visit Palo Duro Canyon State Park or any of the other numerous state and national parks around the United States. Take a break from hurrying from sale to sale so that you can slow down, experience nature, feel gratitude for your many blessings and appreciate those things that are truly important to you this holiday season. Find a way that works for you to give back to your community. Listen to Perry Como! If you want to be happy in a million ways for the holidays, you can't beat the outdoors. ★

Star Party



Photo by Editor

On October 10, 2016, Partners hosted a Star Party at the Visitor's Center in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Art Schneider, Professor Emeritus retired from Amarillo College, and a member of the Partners Board of Advisors, conducted the party. An attendance of approximately one hundred participants came to the party, but, alas, the heavenly stars did not show.

On this night, the stars were hidden by a cloud cover; thus the various telescopes brought by Art remained in their storage containers. So the party was moved inside the Visitor's Center.

As if he had faced this sort of event many times before, Art reverted from show to tell, and delivered a lecture on the night sky.

The discussion by Art elicited a number of questions, most from the children in attendance, who displayed youthful inquisitiveness and rapt attention to Art's presentation. One could see that Art was pleased by the thoughtfulness of the questions by the young attendees and answered their questions with pleasure. After all, he may have been addressing future astronauts.

The adults in the group seemed as interested as the children and focused as well on the slides and lecture by Art.



Photo by Editor

There will be another Star Party sometime in the not-so-distant future. And at this party, we will encourage with emphasis the stars to attend. We look forward to their twinkle. *Cf*



Photo by Editor



In Memory



Jim Couzzourt

Longtime employee of Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Jim Couzzourt, left the Park and this mortal life on November 7, 2016. We all miss Jim. Our sympathies are with his wife of 35 years, Beverly, his two daughters, and extended family. It has been a pleasure, Jim, to work with you and to know you. Rest well!



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Vignettes from the Park



Photo by David Townsend

Betty Bresnahan, long-time volunteer in Partners Gallery, is interviewed by a local TV station about Palo Duro Canyon. Betty will celebrate her 93rd birthday in January 2017.

To volunteer for Visitor Center and Canyon Gallery, call David Townsend at (806) 488-2506.

To volunteer for Park, call Jeff Davis at (806) 488-2227.



Rodney Franklin

Photo by Lynda Barksdale

Rodney Franklin, Regional Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife

Rodney Franklin addresses the assembly at the dedication ceremony for the new Juniper Camping Loop.



Photo by Lynda Barksdale

Patrick Redbird and Tom Christian have what appears to be an interesting conversation at the Partners Annual Banquet.

Tom is the father of Partners president Frannie Nuttall and is a former State Representative..



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Merry Christmas
On the Edge!

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